

SITUATION REPORT NO. 9
INCIDENT NO. 95-04
DATE: May 5, 1995 TIME: 11:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: 1995 Flood Disaster.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: One death was reported in Stutsman County. A fourteen-year old boy drowned in a slough that reached depths of over six feet which normally only has 24 inches of water.
3. DAMAGE: The FEMA-State Preliminary Damage Assessment Teams identified \$2.5 million in damages to public property.

Flooding on the Pembina and Tongue Rivers has caused damages to roads, road structures, water control structures and farmland in Pembina County.

The level of Devils Lake was 1434.01 as of 08:50 hours, May 5, 1995.

High lake levels have caused officials to close the "Island Road" in Benson County. This is the road across the Minnewaukan Flats going to Graham's Island State Park from Minnewaukan.

With the ice out on Devils Lake, wave action is now a threat to the shoreline and structures on the lake.

In McHenry County, overland flooding from spring runoff is due to the frost in the ground. Surface temperatures are not warm enough to cause this frost to melt, which will allow the soil to absorb the water. It is reported that the frost and ice is present 24 inches below the surface.

Damages to roads and other infrastructure were reported in Eddy, McIntosh, McLean, Wells, and LaMoure counties.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs estimates current damages to BIA roads total about \$3.6 million on the Fort Totten Sioux Indian Reservation.

A trailer park in Devils Lake is experiencing problems with mobile homes sinking into saturated soil.

The Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation, Land Operations Office staff, reported that some problems could develop with the wing walls and the spillway of the Belcourt Lake Dam. The problems are being monitored by local government and the State Water Commission.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: Local officials in Eddy, McIntosh, McLean, Wells, and LaMoure counties have been doing

initial assessment of damages.

Pembina County is conducting a pumping operation to protect existing infrastructure.

Turtle Mountain Reservation personnel are monitoring the spillway of the Belcourt Lake Dam. The wing walls have started to separate from the basin structure and some washing has occurred. The lake has crested. The level of flow over that structure is now 6 to 8 inches lower.

STATE: The North Dakota National Guard is supporting Pembina County in their efforts to protect infrastructure.

FEDERAL: Corps of Engineers are providing pumps to the State of North Dakota.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: The Salvation Army is providing emergency housing for a family whose home on Devils Lake is flooded.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The State Water Commission is providing technical support to the Devils Lake Sioux Tribe living on the south shore.

The North Dakota Department of Transportation has awarded a contract for the grade raising necessary on ND Highway 20 at the Narrows. The construction company will start the job next week.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation and North Dakota Game and Fish are working together on the boat docks at Black Tiger Bay.

The North Dakota Game and Fish at Six Mile Bay is pouring cement pads on both north and south sides of the bridge for boat ramps. The city of Devils Lake will provide fill necessary around the pads.

The Game and Fish is also working with a local bait shop. G&F is providing concrete planks to Tower's Bait Shop. The planks, when placed, will become a public boat ramp.

Game and Fish is also working at Creel Bay and on East Bay to provide ramps for fishing and recreational boat use.

The Devils Lake Basin Joint Board has raised the ninth sewer lift station and four man holes to date. One septic system has been abandoned and sealed.

Ramsey County has placed speed and weight restrictions on county roads, maximum 40 mph. They have hired a special deputy to enforce these restrictions.

Ramsey County is negotiating a joint effort with Benson County and North Dakota Department of Transportation to raise the Woods-Rutten road.

The Corps of Engineers and the city are closely monitoring some possible overland flood areas within the city of Jamestown. Based on combined releases of up to 1100 cfs from Jamestown and Pipestem Dams. These releases are greater than the 1993 and 1994 maximum flows.

The Corps of Engineers has provided pumps to the North Dakota National Guard, Pembina County, city of Minnewaukan, and McHenry County.

The Corps of Engineers has contracted for aerial photos of the lake area and will provide copies to the State.

On May 1, 1995, Governor Schafer requested the President declare 10 North Dakota Counties a

major disaster as a result of flooding caused by heavy fall precipitation levels, an extremely fast snowmelt, and cool spring temperatures. The counties are: Benson, Bottineau, Cavalier, Griggs, Nelson, Ramsey, Rolette, Steele, Towner, and Walsh. Also impacted are the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation and the Fort Totten Sioux Indian Reservation. Other counties may be added to the declaration request as damages are tabulated. This request is for federal assistance to restore public property to pre-disaster conditions.

Governor Schafer toured Pembina County to survey flood damages on Monday, May 1, 1995.

The ND Division of Emergency Management is conducting an initial damage assessment in 15 counties to determine if damages are sufficient to warrant requesting a federal and state preliminary damage assessment.

State agencies are continuing to assess damages to state facilities in the affected area.

The State Water Commission, Rolette County Commissioners, Rolette County Water Resource Board, and the Rolette County Emergency Manager are assisting the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation Land Operations Office at assessing the Belcourt Dam situation.

The city of Minnewaukan is rip-rapping the sewage lagoon berm with hay bales to prevent erosion of clay embankments. The Benson County road department made improvements on the lagoon access road.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: Many individuals in North Dakota are experiencing basement seepage and sewage problems. Due to extremely high water tables, many sump pumps have been running steadily since last fall because of high water tables. Water wells have been contaminated. Although these individual problems have caused tremendous inconvenience, the findings of the joint local, state, and federal preliminary damage assessment strongly indicates that implementation of the Individual Assistance Program is highly unlikely at this time. Devils Lake is still rising. Damages in other areas are still occurring. Additional precipitation will greatly magnify the current disaster.

The weather in the areas affected has been cool in the day time to near freezing at night, with occasional light rains and misting. This condition has prevented any evaporation of water on the land or in the lake.

Signed _____
Douglas C. Friez
State Director